

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Conference "builds bridges" between fundamentalists, Baptists

By Bob Allen

**ROCKVILLE, Md. (ABP)** — A Bible conference organized to "build bridges" between independent fundamentalist Baptists and "Bible-believing" Southern Baptists was hailed as a historic first step by organizers.

The conference, held Oct. 12-13 in Rockville, Md., featured Jerry Falwell, best-known pastor among the 3,000-church Baptist Bible Fellowship, and two pastors

who served as president of the 15 million-member Southern Baptist Convention — current President Ed Young of Houston and 1989-90 President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla.

"Frankly, I never thought I would be cooperating in a Bible conference with these (independent) brothers," said Bob Crowley, pastor of the host congregation, Montrose Church, a Southern

Baptist church in Rockville, Md. "This may be the beginning of a lot of cooperation, and a lot of bridges will be built."

No one was predicting a merger of the Baptist Bible Fellowship and the new, more conservative Southern Baptist Convention. But several speakers said there is a new openness toward the SBC among independent Baptists, which may bring some independent churches into the SBC fold.

The Baptist Bible Fellowship, based in Springfield, Mo., is the largest and generally considered most moderate of the groups to splinter from the SBC under the influence of fundamentalist Texas pastor J. Frank Norris beginning in the 1920s. The BBF sponsors a newspaper, college, and mission agency, but its leaders insist it is not a denomination in the formal sense.

Traditionally, the group has railed against purported "liberalism" in SBC schools and objected to the denomination's Cooperative Program method of uniform budget support, which they say removes the local church from direct control of mission programs.

Now, some observers believe, reforms initiated in the SBC's "conservative resurgence" since 1979 are causing some of the more progressive independents — particularly those who feel the BBF's loose structure produces too few missionary candidates — to cast a second look toward the SBC.

Their interest is timely for the SBC, which continues to recruit large numbers of new missionaries but has experienced three straight years of decline in Cooperative Program support.

Neither Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, nor Vines, pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, commented directly on the issue of independent/Southern Baptist relations. Last year Young named Vines to chair a task force assigned to "reach out to like-minded local churches" to get them to join the Southern Baptist cause.

Falwell, pastor of the 22,000-member Thomas Road Church and chancellor of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va., has attended SBC meetings regularly in recent years as either a guest speaker or observer.

Over the years, some have speculated that Falwell might be coaxed into joining the SBC. He played down those expectations.

"I'm an independent Baptist," he said. "That's my personality. I couldn't stay in anything long. They'd throw me out if I didn't quit. And it's mainly because I'm a street fighter."

Falwell praised host pastor Bob Crowley for his role in SBC life, particularly in leading the transformation of Southeastern Seminary into a bastion of conservatism.

"God used him to bring Southeastern Seminary back in the right direction," Falwell said. "Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest (N.C.) has corrupted the land for so many, many years, putting out preachers to the left of Gorbachev on everything."

Crowley was president of Southeastern's trustees in 1987 when a new fundamental-conservative majority confronted then-president Randall Lolley, who subsequently resigned.

Lolley was replaced eventually by Paige Patterson, an architect of

the fundamental-conservative movement, a turnaround which brought Falwell pleasure.

"Of all the people in America to bring in as president of Southeastern, they brought in Dr. Paige Patterson," Falwell said. "Paige is to the right of me. I mean he is way out there."

Under Patterson's leadership, the school has quickly emerged as a staunchly conservative seminary, even by fundamentalist standards, Falwell said.

Crowley evaluated the two-day conference as a success. "I believe some bridges have been built," he said. He credited Patterson with initiating the idea for the conference, which grew from a meeting held 18 months ago and attended by Falwell and others, who eventually comprised a steering committee.

Ed Young told the Rockville audience he is "a fundamental, independent Southern Baptist." He encouraged a church model that departs from both "hard-nosed fundamentalism," which forces unbelievers to "leap over all our shibboleths," and "a watered-down universalism," without doctrinal requirements.

Dave Rhodenizer, now pastor of Calvary Church, an independent congregation in Alexandria, Va., has also held pastorate in Southern Baptist congregations and said he detects "no difference" between the two traditions.

"If they believe the same Word and preach the true word of repentance and faith, it makes no difference if they are Southern Baptist or independent Baptist," he said.

Allen is editor of Maryland-Delaware's BAPTIST TRUE UNION.



### A career of care

Southern Baptist missionary doctor Sam Cannata, from Houston, treats a patient at the Kaliti refugee camp in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Cannata and his wife, Ginny, from Hollandale, closed out their missionary careers in Ethiopia, where they had worked before, from 1968-77. During 36 years of medical mission work, the Cannatas served in six African countries. In the 1960s, Cannata lost sight in one eye in Zimbabwe. In the '70s, he temporarily lost his freedom in Ethiopia's political turmoil. And in the '80s, the couple lost a 27-year-old son serving in Ethiopia in an accident. Yet they believe their lives have made an eternal difference in the lives of many Africans and other missionaries. The Cannatas were among nine missionaries with Mississippi connections honored by the Foreign Mission Board Oct. 11. (BP photo by Melissa Bird)

### Churches plan anniversary celebrations

Little Bahala Church, Lincoln Association, will celebrate its 175th anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 14. Estus Mason will bring a message of thanksgiving and praise, and special guests will include Talmadge Smith, director of missions, and former pastors. There will also be a dinner on the ground and special music by Sherrod Rayborn and the Sonshine Trio. For more information, contact Little Bahala Church at Rt. 2, Box 183, Wesson, MS 39191.



Wesson

First Church, Quitman, will celebrate "150 Years of Plowing and Harvesting" on Sunday, Nov. 7. In honor of this sesquicentennial, a special worship service will be conducted that day at 10:45 a.m., followed by a covered dish lunch. There will be no evening service. For more information, contact Grodie Pearl Dansby at 313 Bailey Ave., Quitman, MS 39355.

Quitman

### Looking back...

#### 10 years ago

Mississippians James and Zelma Foster, retiring after 38 years as missionaries in China, Philippines, and Surinam, are honored by FMB trustees and President Keith Parks in a special ceremony during a board meeting in Richmond, Va.

#### 20 years ago

Hickory Ridge Church, Rankin Association, sends an extra contribution of nearly \$724 for FMB use. This gift represents almost 10% of the church's annual budget, in addition to more than \$700 already given this year for foreign missions.

#### 50 years ago

A Baptist Record editorial suggests the government's appeal to housewives to double tin collections for the war effort could be better met by requiring the huge quantities of metal going to the beer industry to can their product be diverted to the collection.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Thursday, October 28, 1993



## The days of thy youth

In the past three years I have been on all three campuses of our Baptist colleges in meetings with the ministerial students. Except now they are CRVs — Church Related Vocation students. The MBCB Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department sponsors a banquet where all the CRV students, professors, and guests are invited. This has always been a positive and encouraging meeting led by Julius Thompson and Matt Buckles.

The MBCB's executive director-treasurer, Bill Causey, spoke at the MC banquet a few weeks ago. He emphasized the seriousness and the importance of the call from the Lord to be in this work. Students were urged to "become first-class human beings. You owe this to God and man. You need an education, you need to use good manners and observe common courtesies. Students should be faithful Christians. The cross and resurrection are radical truths, disliked by the world, but a necessity for the believers. You are to be a

servant. The world will never call you 'high achievers' but gaining God's approval is far better."

The observation was made that CRV students seem more serious about getting an education. Impressive are the dedicated faculty members who are busy shaping lives. Certainly these men are not in it for fame and fortune but the joy of working with students who treat God's claim on their life as serious business.

Once I was in a 75-year-old church which, according to the clerk, had never sent forth a full-time Christian worker. In another church, more than 15 young people have gone forth as preachers, missionaries, and other CRV tasks. "Calling out the called" is an essential part of church ministry.

Then you had to be impressed by their youthfulness. That which Shakespeare called, "My salad days, when I was green in judgment: cold in blood" or Wordsworth's "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was

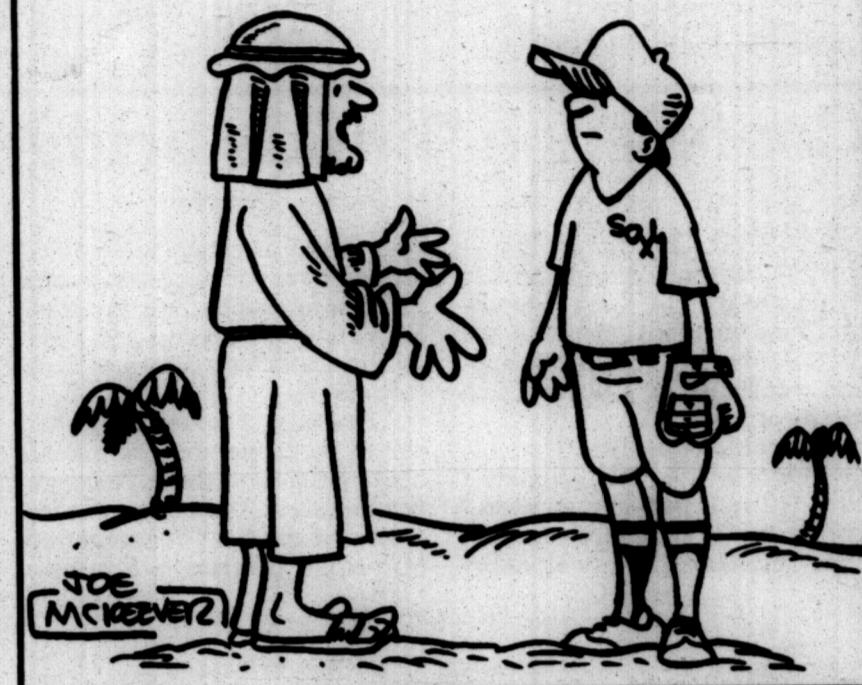
very heaven!" You look at their youthful faces and feel the energy being directed in their zeal for the Lord. Old men desire to say something perhaps akin to A.W. Peach's statement:

"O youth with song and laughter,  
Go not so lightly by.  
Have pity — and remember  
How soon thy roses die."

From William Carey College in the south to Blue Mountain in the north, and to MC in between, we have a crop of church-related vocation students preparing themselves, under capable hands, that will be numbered as pastors, ministers of music, education and youth, and college professors in less than a decade. We do well to prepare them well.

The preacher said it with authority: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth... and heed... the words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd" (Eccl. 12:1,11).

"WHAT IS THIS NEW RELIGION YOU'VE JOINED?"



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Click on Main

In one falling motion I hit the chair, ripped the cover from the computer, and turned on the switches. The screen declared this to be Station 50, that the token ring and Network Router had just kicked in. I identified myself with a secret code only to be told it was no longer valid.

Moreover, the IBM compatible Gold Star implied I was an imposter trying to break in on top secret Pentagon matters. Furthermore, the macro screen 3.0 was not compatible with Module Support 209 and the machine would release the 2.0 to level 9. Adding insults where possible, this material was all copyrighted and my futuras would not be lengthy if scheduling software and my capability did not soon equalize.

While I pouted, the 31MHz, sensing the horizontal synchronization tracking feature, eclipsed the video adapter which deflected the vertical sync interlaced with graphic modes causing the 15 pin

D sub-miniature connector to produce VGA mode resolution. Finally it was speaking my language.

Cautiously I typed out, "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." Mistakenly, I hit the spell check and the grammar changer. The initializing adapter refused to adapt, declaring I was in the Toggle draft view with a sixth grade macro recorder.

I hit F7 with a scroll-lock action and the machine wanted to know if I wanted a menu. I screamed out that I'd go to the "Silver Slipper" if I wanted to eat.

Being mechanically inclined, I can now turn it on in 10 minutes, though it takes about 17 minutes to turn it off. Like a lot of things, "it's easier to get into than out of."

Anyhow, the computer is here to stay and my advice is to master it prior to grade school. You wonder how Mark Twain, Longfellow, and Louisa May Alcott ever wrote without one. — GH

these issues if we remember that our ultimate commitment is to no person and no organization this side of Jesus Christ.

McBeth is a professor, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. This article is reprinted from the Fall 1993 issue of BAPTIST HERITAGE UPDATE, published by the SBC Historical Commission.

recent years. We must recover a missionary zeal that will call us back to cooperative effort and sacrificial giving.

**In the world, not of the world.** We live in the world and bear our witness there, but we must maintain a healthy distance from the powers of this present age. It has been said that whoever marries the culture of one generation will be a widow in the next.

Baptists would do well to avoid a too-close identity with political parties, secular social agendas, to any specific government leaders or policies. All of these are subject to change with the shifting of the wind.

In our search for efficiency, we may allow leadership and organizational styles of the world to creep into the church. In our effort to be relevant, we may pander to the passing fads of this age.

**Disruption of the SBC.** For almost a generation, the Southern Baptist Convention has been in turmoil. Many churches feel alienated; loyal Baptists feel rejected. Many stop or diminish their participation in SBC life.

As a result, the SBC faces the greatest internal crisis in its history. A denominational split looms as a real possibility. The problem is made worse by the fact that victors in the denominational struggle

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refuse to acknowledge the problem, much less make any move toward reconciliation.

The kingdom of God is older than the SBC. The health of the denomination is in the churches, not in any convention.

**Hope for the future.** This is not the first time Southern Baptists have faced critical issues and it will not be the last. We can meet

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# '93 Convention program, schedule, theme announced

By Tim Nicholas

The 158th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention takes place Nov. 16-17 at First Church, Jackson with election of officers and consideration of a 1994 Cooperative Program budget topping business matters. Convention theme is "Pray ye therefore..."

A new convention president will be elected to replace two-term President W.W. Walley, Waynesboro physician. And messengers will elect vice presidents. Current office holders are Jimmy Porter of McComb, first vice president, and Ed Holmes of Gulfport, second vice president.

The 1994 Cooperative Program budget to be considered is \$22,452,000, recommended by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This is the same amount approved as the 1993 budget. The Southern Baptist Convention portion of the budget remains at the same percentage, 37.

The convention opens at 8:50 on Tuesday with the sounding of the gavel by President Walley. It concludes at 8:30 the following evening after closing speaker S. Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-fil-A, Inc., delivers his address.

Other featured speakers

include the president's address by Walley during the first session, and messages by Ken Hemphill, Bill Causey, Frank Pollard, and Don Wilton. Hemphill, who speaks during the Tuesday afternoon session, is director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth in Atlanta.

Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, speaks during the convention board emphasis on Tuesday evening. Frank Pollard, pastor of the host church, will preach the convention sermon on Wednesday morning. Don Wilton, pastor of First

Church, Spartanburg, S.C., speaks Wednesday afternoon.

An annual feature of the convention is the Bible Treasure series. This year the devotionals will be led by T.W. Hunt, prayer specialist for the Baptist Sunday School Board. He will speak during the four daytime sessions.

Music will come from the sanctuary choir of First Church, Waynesboro; the men's ensemble of First Church, McComb; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; Doctors Four of First Church, Laurel; the Mississippi College Chorale; and a mass senior adult choir. First Church, Jackson,

staffers Eva Hart and Glenn Crosthwait, will serve as pianist and organist, respectively.

A series of prayer testimonies will be given by lay persons during each of the six convention sessions. Speakers will be Jackye Murray of First Church, McComb; Ethel Dillon of Meadville Church, Meadville; Tim Potter of First Church, Flora; Wayne Moore of First Church, New Albany; Meralyn Peterson of Alta Woods Church, Jackson; and historical figure George Muller will be portrayed by Michael Lee of Fairview Church, Columbus.

## 1994 missions needs may suffer if teen vols dwindle

ATLANTA (BP) — Fearing a drop in the number of Activator mission teams, volunteer coordinators are asking Acteens to consider going on a mission trip as well as attend next summer's National Acteen Convention.

Limited finances often force teams to choose between mission work and the convention, which is held every five years, said Marti Solomon, national Acteens specialist for the Woman's Missionary Union.

A decrease would mean fewer Southern Baptist missionaries receive assistance for such projects as Vacation Bible School, Big A Club, and inner-city mission work, said Valerie Hardy, associate director of short-term volunteers for the Home Mission Board.

Acteens are young women in grades seven through 12. Activators must be at least 15 years old or have completed the ninth grade to go on a mission project, Solomon said.

Between 12,000 and 15,000 Acteens are expected for the national convention June 21-24 in Birmingham, Ala. During the 1989 convention, the Home and Foreign Mission boards assigned half the previous year's number

of Activator teams to mission projects, Solomon said.

Last year, about 190 Activator teams worked on home and foreign mission projects, she said. A shortage of teams will especially hurt smaller churches in new work areas because they often need smaller teams the size of Activator groups, Hardy said.

"That is significant when you consider that so many of these groups go where only maybe one or two groups are requested for the whole summer," she said.

Last year, volunteers filled 72% of missionary's requests for summer missions teams, the highest percentage in recent years, Hardy said.

Solomon said she's written the supervisors for Activator teams from the past three years, asking them to pray about going to both a mission project and the national convention. "I'm just praying that people will respond to that challenge."

More information about Acteen Activators is available from state WMU directors. Information about summer mission opportunities are available from state conventions or the Home Mission Board at 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

## Home Mission Board appoints state natives

ATLANTA — Mississippi natives Troy and Mary Donahoe



Troy and Mary Donahoe

were appointed to mission service by the Home Mission Board in September.

The Donahoes will serve in Zionsville, Ind., where he will be a church planter apprentice, and she will work in family and church service.

A native of Crystal Springs, Donahoe is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary in Memphis. He has served as minister of education and evangelism at Poplar Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis.

A radiologic technologist, Mrs. Donahoe has done volunteer service as a Sunday School teacher, youth director, and Vacation Bible School worker. She is a native of Shubuta.

Southern Baptist missionary Dennis McCall of Vicksburg and his family are safe but separated in the aftermath of an Oct. 21 military coup in the African nation of Burundi, where they serve as agricultural evangelists.

Don Martin, who works in the news and information office of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB), reported that McCall, 39, was in the capital city of Bujumbura when the coup started, while his wife, Margaret, and their three children were at home in the town of Rutana.

McCall, a Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary graduate, dropped out of sight as the coup began, and FMB officials spent an anxious weekend attempting to locate him in the confusion that engulfed Bujumbura. Virtually all forms of communication in and out of the country were shut down when the coup started.

McCall surfaced Oct. 23 at a

guest house in Bujumbura, where he was staying when the coup began. He reported that he was uninjured and had not been detained, Martin said. McCall has been unsuccessful in attempts to contact his family to report he was safe, Martin added.

The good news that the family had been accounted for brought relief to McCall's father, John, director of church relations at Mississippi College in Clinton. The



elder McCall also serves as a Bible professor at the school and was pastor of First Church in Vicksburg for 30 years.

"You'll have to forgive me; I'm very emotional about this. You

can't imagine how I appreciate the prayers of friends all over the United States for these children," he said, his voice wavering.

Even though the coup seems to be losing steam as divisions appear within the military, the danger is not past for the 20 members of the five Southern Baptist missionary families presently in the country, all of whom have been accounted for.

Age-old tribal violence has flared anew, and the situation in Bujumbura is being described as "catastrophic" by a British Broadcasting Company correspondent.

In addition, as many as 200,000 refugees are making their way into neighboring Rwanda to escape the fierce fighting, and deposed leaders who fled to the French Embassy are calling for armed intervention by the U.N.

Burundi, one of the poorest nations in the world, has a population of 5.5 million. The former German and Belgian colony gained independence in 1962.

### FMB urges prayer for missionary families

I am asking you to pray for our missionaries and our Baptist people in Burundi. At present, there are five Southern Baptist families with a total of 10 adults and 10 children in Burundi. Pray for the personal safety of the missionaries and their families. Pray that the telephone lines may be restored so we can make contact with them. Pray for the parents and relatives here in the States who are very concerned for the safety of their loved ones. Pray that during these dangerous times, our missionaries may know the comforting presence of our Lord. Pray for the national Baptists and the safety of their families. Please ask the Father to put his guardian angels around our missionaries and keep them in the hollow of his hand.

—James Westmoreland, FMB Associate Area Director for Eastern and Southern Africa.



## Romance is key to "sizzle"

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Ed Young (center), pastor of Second Church, Houston, and current president of the Southern Baptist Convention, visits with Christian author James Dobson (right) and James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Draper and Young were guests on Dobson's "Focus on the Family" radio program, expected to air in October. Young's book, *Romancing the Home, How to Have a Marriage That Sizzles*, was recently published by Broadman, and was the topic of the program. (BP photo by Chip Alford)

## RTVC's radio programs accessible to 600 million

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Based on standard industry measures, radio programming by the Radio and Television Commission is accessible to an estimated U.S. audience of 150 million and a worldwide population of more than 600 million.

"I am amazed at the doors that are opening because of the changing world geography," said Ed Malone, vice president of radio services for the RTVC. "We are receiving requests and inquiries from countries that have been closed to us in the past. Something is happening out there. God is moving in a unique way and doors are opening. There is greater opportunity for proclaiming the gospel than ever before... and we must step in."

Malone said a major station in Monrovia, Liberia, recently began airing six weekly RTVC programs as a result of seeing an article about the programs in BEAM International, the commission's quarterly magazine.

"The station reaches well over 1.5 million people in Africa," he said. "In just a month and a half we have had an increase of 130 stations carrying our programs."

Malone said RTVC President Jack Johnson's work in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet

Union also has resulted in radio and television programs that are now reaching millions.

"We are looking at satellite networks, shortwave systems, and internationally privatized stations around the world to carry our programs," Malone said. "For the remainder of this year and next year we are emphasizing our international radio marketing strategy."

Malone said he plans to attend the European Convention of Broadcasters and the International Broadcasters Convention, both in the summer of 1994, in an effort to increase the RTVC's outreach in Europe and Asia.

"Numbers are funny things," he said. "Some people tend to play fast and loose with their audience estimates, but we tend to be very conservative. While it is important to reach as many people for Christ as possible, we are not to be obsessed with numbers for pride's sake. We give God the credit for giving us these wonderful opportunities and are grateful that we can take advantage of them."

Three of the RTVC's weekly radio programs celebrate anniversaries in 1994. "MasterControl" will be 35 years old. "Country Crossroads" and "Powerline" will be 25.

## Iowa increases CP giving

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (BP) — The Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship increased its Cooperative Program giving by 1% and began the process of becoming a state convention during its Oct. 22-23 annual meeting.

The fellowship, attended by 117 messengers at Immanuel Church in Cedar Rapids, approved a 1994 Cooperative Program budget of \$1,197,515 increasing the portion of the budget for national and international Southern Baptist ministries to 21%, from 20%.

Currently the fellowship encompasses 66 churches, 16 missions and eight Bible fellowships with about 12,000 members.

Also re-elected to a second term was the fellowship's president, David Newcom, a layman from Trinity Chapel in Waterloo. Jonette Appleton, a fellowship staff member and member of First Church in Johnston, was elected recording secretary.

The 1994 meeting will be Oct. 21-22 at Hillcrest Church in Davenport.

# Casino plan near Gulfshore dealt blow by supervisors

By William H. Perkins Jr.

"We have notified the Gaming Commission of our opposition and have requested a public hearing before the commission. We'll be ready when it comes up," she said.

Paul G. Jones II, director of the Christian Action Commission for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, applauded the supervisors' decision. Jones spoke on behalf of Mississippi Baptists at the Oct. 12 public meeting and received a standing ovation after condemning the casino site.

"Mississippi Baptists can take pride in the fact that the supervisors recognized the impact of Gulfshore Assembly, not only on the immediate area but the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast, and acted to protect what supporters recog-

nize as a significant part of the life of Harrison County," Jones said.

### Mississippi Gaming Commission

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Opponents and supporters of a planned casino site near Gulfshore Assembly line the walls of Kelly Center auditorium at the Baptist facility during the Oct. 12 public meeting on the matter. Mississippi Baptists and neighborhood residents fighting the proposed casino picked up a crucial endorsement Oct. 25 from the Harrison County Board of Supervisors. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Students express dismay over MBTS trustee actions

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Expressions of dismay were aired during a student forum at Midwestern Seminary two days after trustees voted against granting tenure to Wilburn T. Stancil, associate professor of Christian theology.

One hundred-twenty people, including students, faculty, and staff, attended the two-hour forum Oct. 20 in the seminary chapel. Five Midwestern trustees rearranged their travel schedules to attend the forum, as well, and listened as 15 students stepped up to microphones to voice support for Stancil and dismay that he was not granted tenure. The students' expressions ranged from shock and anger to grief.

Midwestern President Milton Ferguson convened the forum at the request of David Martin, president of the MBTS Student Body Association, and first-year trustee Joe McKinney of New Mexico, an alumnus of the seminary. The meeting was conducted under

background rules, with direct attribution of quotes being allowed only when permission was granted by the participants.

In opening remarks, Martin told fellow students he had talked with McKinney after the tenure vote and felt the trustee "expressed a sincere hurt for what had happened." He said, "As we talked, he (McKinney) said to me that there should be a way to bridge the hurt and somehow for both sides to come closer together and try to understand each other."

One student asked, "Does the board, or members of the board, have a secret or open political agenda that they're trying to push with decisions such as this tenure vote?"

All five of the trustees present responded to the question, with four denying they had an agenda and one stating: "I do. My agenda is that this institution have a clear and concise doctrinal and theological position. I think in many ways the vote Monday night and

what we've been doing in the process the last 15 years has defined that. It didn't all happen in one meeting. It's been a process. ... Some would say that we are redefining what Southern Baptists are; others would say that we are returning to what we once were."

First-year student Rick Durham was the last student to address the forum. He urged his classmates to "leave our hurts behind."

"You'll not win anybody to Jesus Christ, you'll not build any church up, and you'll not do Midwestern any good (by) pouting and leaving this place putting everyone down."

Durham said Stancil, in private counsel, recently had told him: "The most important thing we can do when we leave this campus is to win people to Jesus."

Durham admonished, "Let's not forget this as we leave. Our purpose is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ."

# Conservative strategists meet in Louisville after inauguration

By Marv Knox

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Leaders of the conservative movement across the Southern Baptist Convention gathered in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 15-16 for a strategy session, just weeks prior to the annual meetings of Baptist state conventions.

Participants have described three earlier, similar meetings as forums for expressing concern about the SBC and for sharing information about the conservative movements in the state conventions.

The first meeting was held at Bellevue Church in Memphis in August 1992. The second meeting was at Two Rivers Church in Nashville last February. The third meeting was at a Louisville motel.

The Louisville meeting was held immediately after the inauguration of Albert Mohler as president of Southern Seminary in Louisville. Organizers explained many who participated in the strategy session were already in town for the inauguration of Mohler, whose election was viewed as a victory for conservatives.

Key organizers of the strategy group have been T. C. Pinckney, a retired Air Force general from Alexandria, Va., and Perry Ellis of Dallas, executive director of the Texas Baptist Conservative Fellowship.

Also present at the Louisville

meeting was Paul Pressler of Houston, a retired judge and one of the key leaders of conservatives' successful movement to control the SBC.

"We get together for fellowship and understanding what we're facing in our conventions — just the situation across the convention," said Ellis.

"There is no concentrated effort to lay out a plan for every state. We just sit and listen to each other. We learn from one another, encourage each other, and pray for each other."

"This was more or less a follow-up, touch-base type of meeting, to compare notes from state to state and the overall picture of the conservative resurgence," added LaVerne Butler, president of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield, Ky., who participated with the group for the first time in Louisville.

Both Butler and Ellis cited the new moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as a major point of concern.

"The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is moving so rapidly and developing so many things," said Butler, who described the Fellowship as "anti-Cooperative Program and anti-Southern Baptist."

"We are really concerned about the efforts of folks like the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship who

are spiriting away our Southern Baptist churches," Ellis added. "These are longstanding Southern Baptist churches leaving the 'rock from which they are hewn.'"

Butler and Ellis insisted a "matter of integrity" mandates that people whose sympathies are with the Fellowship should own up to that and not pretend to be Southern Baptists so they can court churches for the Fellowship.

The Fellowship also is to blame for caucus meetings such as the Louisville gathering, Ellis added.

"Everybody is tired of this struggle. There would be no need for the struggle if the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship were not in the churches trying to get Southern Baptist funds."

Fellowship leaders consistently have denied similar charges. The organization exists to provide like-minded Baptists with an opportunity to support ministries in which their voices are heard, they have said, noting a significant portion of the money the Fellowship collects still goes to SBC causes.

Participants cited Pinckney as the chief organizer of the group. Pinckney was backpacking following the meeting and could not be reached for comment.

Knox is editor, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.

Thursday, October 28, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



## Graham highlights inaugural

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — The inaugural worship service for R. Albert Mohler Jr. (right) as Southern Seminary's new president also provided a platform for announcing, with evangelist Billy Graham looking on, a new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth at the Louisville, Ky., seminary. Mohler, addressing nearly 9,000 people at the Oct. 14 service that featured a message by Graham, announced trustee approval of the new school during an executive session Oct. 13. Graham, who emphasized in his message "the greatest need that we have in America at this hour is a spiritual awakening that will change our moral value system," said such a movement of the Holy Spirit also could involve "a reconciliation and unity within the Southern Baptist Convention." "We need to love one another," Graham said. "We can disagree, of course. But we need to love one another."

## Publication of speech to Masons leads to resignation request

given "a more negative spin... that I requested my name not be attached to the study."

Leazer's name was improperly included on the first draft and subsequently removed, Lewis recounted. "The study was not intended to be Gary Leazer's work but a production of the Interfaith Witness Department."

Lewis emphasized neither Leazer's remarks nor his termination should reflect negatively on either the department's study or the board's report.

"Southern Baptists can be assured that both these documents are reliable; neither has been seriously challenged and, in fact, each has been praised by proponents on both sides of the issue," Lewis said.

Lewis termed the action requesting Leazer's resignation "most unfortunate" but said, "I have conferred with my staff as well as the administrative committee of our board and am confident this is the right course of action." He asked Southern Baptists to remember Leazer and his family in prayer as they face this transition time.

## Piland lists "irreducibles" for ministry

By Chip Alford

That's what Harry Piland told a group of new ministers of education attending an orientation conference Oct. 18-21 at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

"If you don't have that, I guarantee you, you won't be successful," Piland, director of the BSSB's church growth-Sunday School division, said. "How can we not love people and be like Christ?"

Piland admitted loving people is not always easy.

"Frankly, some people are not very easy to like, but when you let someone else determine how you respond to them, you are not living like Christ.... You have to love people for what God can do through them.... Never put anyone out of your circle of love and influence."

Piland shared with the conference attendees 10 other "irreducible minimums" for an effective minister of education.

First, he said, an effective minister must be one who is called by God.

"That is essential if you remain in this work," he said, adding "it will take you through the worst of disappointments, discouragements, and doubts."

The effective minister must also have the capacity for hard work, Piland said.

"It plain takes work to do the

job and it's not just about working smart, it's about working hard. That doesn't mean you don't take time for your family. You have to find a way to balance that, but you're not going to get things done by taking shortcuts all the time."

Piland said an effective minister of education also:

— knows the job. "A person who knows the work is a person who is more apt to be followed."

— focuses on the most important issues. "You can't do it all. If you try to, you won't have time to do what you were called to do."

— exemplifies true leadership. "Some people can talk that talk, but they don't walk the walk. You have to have integrity."

— uses common sense.

— guards his or her spiritual devotional time. "If there is anything the adversary wants to get you out of, it is to get you out of (God's Word)," he said. "You let your spiritual life deteriorate and you will deteriorate."

— delegates.

— never gives up. "That doesn't mean don't try a new strategy, but you've got to finish the race."

— is a believer. "There are a lot of doubters and pessimists out there, but you need to have enthusiasm. Be positive. Believe things can happen."

Alford is design editor, FACTS AND TRENDS, BSSB.

## Growth conference cancelled

Due to the limited registration, the Models for Church Growth Conference has been cancelled, according to Richard Brogan, consultant with the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The conference was scheduled for Nov. 1-2 at the Holiday Inn, Jackson.



## See you at the Pole

On Sept. 15, 21-year-old Tra Stovall from Magee's Creek Church led a group of about 375 students and teachers in observing the national See You at the Pole prayer event at Salem Attendance Center. About 20 youths from the church wore Christian theme T-shirts to school every Wednesday of September to show support for the event. Max Parris is pastor.

## SBCNet offers special for new subscribers

NASHVILLE (BP) — SBCNet, the data communications network for Southern Baptists, will offer a special usage credit to new subscribers from Nov. 1, 1993, through Jan. 31, 1994, resulting in a price break that makes the software kit free and pays the new subscriber \$5.

For the three-month period, the SBCNet kit, which includes software and account information on SBCNet and CompuServe, will provide a \$25 usage credit. The kit sells for \$20.

According to David Haywood, SBCNet coordinator at the Baptist

Sunday School Board, the special offer is designed as an extra incentive to introduce the network's services to Southern Baptist church staff persons and lay leaders.

SBCNet may be accessed by using a computer, modem, and a membership kit distributed by the board. Kits are available in DOS, Macintosh, and Windows versions, and may be ordered by calling 1-800-458-2772. Additional information about SBCNet and CompuServe may be obtained by calling Haywood at 1-800-325-7749, ext. 2895.

## NOBTS offers degree programs off-campus

New Orleans Seminary offers an undergraduate degree program in Mississippi, the associate in Christian studies. Classes meet Mondays at Broadmoor Church, Jackson. A student may earn up to 69 semester hours with concentrations in theological studies or Christian education.

Second semester courses are: New Testament Survey, History of Christian Education, and an Old Testament elective. They begin Jan. 24.

The seminary also offers classes for a non-degree Christian education associate diploma. That pro-

gram is designed to meet the needs of churches by providing training for lay persons who could serve on a part-time basis. Classes beginning Jan. 24 meet at 7 p.m. each Monday for eight-week terms at the following locations: Broadmoor Church, Jackson; Pearl River Association Office, Carriere; and beginning Jan. 27, at Antioch Church, Columbus. The course to be offered at each location is Developing Your Leadership Skills.

For more information, contact Chester Vaughn, 268 Northpointe Pkwy., Jackson, MS 39211; telephone (601) 956-6285.

## Fellowship launches \$3 million global-missions offering

ATLANTA (ABP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) kicks off the second year of its global-missions offering in late October with hopes for another major victory for its young missions program.

The Fellowship has a goal of \$3 million, a 50% increase over the 1992-93 offering.

The 1993-94 offering officially begins during the week of Oct. 25 with a mailing of promotional materials to more than 1,200 churches which forwarded contributions to the CBF during the past

year. The offering extends from October through April, with the books open through June 30.

At the same time, the CBF is introducing its first missions-education resources. A missions study series for children, youths, and adults will be available Nov. 10.

The Fellowship was organized in May 1991 by Southern Baptist leaders who felt moderate Baptists had been disenfranchised by the new leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention during the denomination's 12-year swing to the right.

# Fellowship distracts trustees during recent board meetings

ATLANTA (ABP) — Criticism of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was a hot topic during the recent round of trustee meetings at Southern Baptist seminaries and mission boards.

The topic surfaced during at least four trustee meetings held Oct. 11-13.

The Fellowship is an organization of Southern Baptist moderates opposed to the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies. Funds collected by the Fellowship support both Southern Baptist causes and Fellowship-endorsed efforts.

But many SBC leaders consider the Fellowship to be in competition with SBC agencies for the loyalty and financial support of rank-and-file Baptists. Some agencies have tried to avoid any dealings with the Fellowship for that reason.

Among the recent actions:

— At Southwestern Seminary, trustees authorized a study of the seminary's relationship with the Fellowship. Among the issues is whether or not Southwestern's alumni should be allowed to host meetings during Fellowship functions. The study reportedly will also consider whether or not to continue accepting financial support from the Fellowship.

Trustees debated at length whether or not to give an award to a couple of seminary supporters because of the couple's involvement with the Fellowship. And the election of David Music as dean of the music school was postponed after trustees raised questions about his membership in Broadway Church, a Fort Worth congregation that supports the Fellowship.

— At Southern Seminary, trustees passed a resolution urging faculty members to support the Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified budget, and to encourage their churches to do likewise — an indirect criticism of the Fel-

## Pontotoc calls Steward as new DOM

Pontotoc Association has called George Steward as director of missions. The Tate County native is a graduate of Thyatira High School, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.

He has served New Zion, Bethany, Darling, and Duck Hill churches as pastor. His most recent place of service was Longview Church, Belden.

He and his wife Adley have three grown children.

lowship, which receives support from several churches located near the seminary.

— At the Home Mission Board, trustees appointed Rebecca Waugh of New York City as a missionary but not her husband, David, who is on the Fellowship's Coordinating Council. It was an exception to HMB policy, which requires both missionaries and their spouses to be appointed.

— At the Foreign Mission Board, trustees debated a motion to delete the name of Keith Parks from the dedication of a book on the FMB's history. A decision was postponed until December. Parks, who resigned last year as FMB president in a dispute with trustees, has since become missions coordinator for the Fellowship.

FMB trustees also asked their chairman to "investigate" reports that Woman's Missionary Union, an SBC mission-support agency, is promoting a Fellowship book on missions. WMU officials told Associated Baptist Press they are distributing the book but the Fellowship is handling promotion.

Cecil Sherman, Fellowship coordinator, accused SBC trustees of "talking out of both sides of

their mouths."

"If they are going to take our checks, then they ought not talk bad about us," he said. "And if they are going to talk bad about us, they ought to send the checks back. But to cash the checks and then turn around and talk bad about us, first of all isn't good manners and then it's bad religion."

"I'm not suggesting they send (the money) back," he continued. "We send it to them in the hopes they put it to godly purposes...."

"It's not dirty money, it came from God-fearing people who gave it 'as unto the Lord.'"

Sherman said Fellowship supporters "still are giving quite generously to the SBC agencies."

So far this year, the Fellowship has sent \$2 million to SBC agencies, including \$120,868 to Southwestern, \$92,292 to Southern Seminary, \$1,190,455 to the Foreign Mission Board, and \$327,836 to the Home Mission Board.

But Sherman said money — either for SBC agencies or the Fellowship's efforts — is not the real issue for trustees.

"...We are beyond their control. That seems to be what is distressing a lot of these people."



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*I am stressed out! Deadlines are always upon me, my family expects me to meet all their needs, and I feel overwhelmed and tired all the time.*

This is a common ailment in today's fast-paced, technological age. Stress is a part of all our lives. It is when the impacts of all the smaller events combine that they become overwhelming. Some suggestions to overcome these stressors:

— Loosen up and allow yourself to get close to those you care about. ("Give and it will be given unto you.")

— Make time for physical exercise. Work it out and get it out.

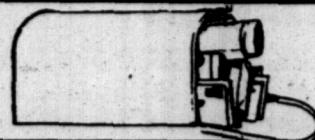
— Pamper yourself now and then.

— Communicate to significant others your hurt feelings, embarrassments, etc. By getting them out, you can avoid bottled-up feelings that lead to headaches, high blood pressure, etc.

— Organize your time and energy. Good time management is necessary to staying on top of priorities. Look at the positive and find time for pleasurable activities.

*I have a friend who always*

*Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.*



# Letters to the editor



## Thanks from prof

### Editor:

This letter is intended for Journeymen and Journeyladies, past, present, and future, sent their way courtesy the editor and his page for sharing among Baptists.

First is an overdue "thank you" for the service you offered to your Lord and Southern Baptist missions. It was low pay compared to salaries in the world of commerce but it was invaluable to families away from home as you helped school their children, provided good fellowship for all ages, saved their time — almost their lives — as you typed their correspondence, helped run the office and the errands.

You matured in a hurry and came home to enrich all of us who heard your reports and enjoyed your conversations. For many of you the call to lifetime mission ministry was either formed or cemented and you came home to prepare for appointment. It was in your training in seminary that you enriched me as your teacher of mission philosophy and strategy, and contributed greatly in your classes.

How? You were alive and alert, aware of the importance of special preparation for effective cross-cultural ministry. You responded to ideas, smiled as we discussed problems, were serious students, and prepared better than most for a big job. THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

This week I had a delightful conversation with a Journeylady who has served twice in Africa. She told me that she wants to go back but has heard so much criti-

cism of the Foreign Mission Board that she is not sure that serving under it is a good idea right now.

My answer? There was never a better time, never a brighter prospect of seeing multitudes decide to love and serve Jesus, and never a better promise of wise, caring, deeply spiritual leadership from Richmond and on the field. Initiative and decision-making have already been pushed back to the people on the field; Jerry Rankin has already created cooperation in place of confrontation; trustees, staff, and missionaries are having warm, trusting fellowship and consultation. There has been a revival atmosphere in the last two board meetings and all of this makes the future look brighter and better for today's appointees than any day since I began teaching missions in 1948. Praise the Lord and volunteer soon!

Cal Guy  
Professor of missions  
Southwestern Seminary

## More pamphlet info

### Editor:

I recently read with interest your editorial in the Oct. 7 edition of *The Baptist Record*. You have accurately described the events related to the publication of the Historical Commission's pamphlet, entitled "Who Are Southern Baptists?" You also have raised some very valid questions. In describing the commission's response to the Executive Committee, however, you failed to mention that in the final paragraph the commission addressed some of the important concerns of your

editorial. The report concluded with the following statement:

In future instances where issues brought before the Executive Committee need the attention of the Historical Commission, the Commission's administrative committee requests that the Executive Committee refer the matter to the administration and the trustees of our commission in such a manner that the entire trustee body might have an opportunity to consider the matter and act upon it at the next scheduled meeting. We feel that this would better reflect our time-honored system of trustee responsibility and would be consistent with the assignment given by the Southern Baptist Convention to the Historical Commission and consistent with SBC Bylaw 20 (5) (i), which spells out the relationship of the Executive Committee and all agencies of the Convention.

This statement calls for clarification of the relationship of the Executive Committee and all agencies of the SBC, not just the Historical Commission.

I hope that your confidence in the Historical Commission has not been eroded. I would encourage you to look at our programs of recent years. They have been balanced in terms of topics and speakers.

You asked, "How are we to feel toward the historicity of the other seven pamphlets in the series?" Please judge the entire work upon its total value rather than upon the inclusion or exclusion of the words "Cooperative Baptist Fellowship." We are dedicated to providing accurate history for the generations that follow. We did that in the original pamphlet and even in the revision, which reported accurate information, although the example of the CBF was deleted.

The days ahead are critical for our denomination. Pray with me that God will raise up a few peacemakers who can lead the people of our denomination back toward each other rather than away from each other.

Slayden Yarbrough, chairman  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Shawnee, Okla.

## Just say no!

### Editor:

My name is James K. Harmon, a white male, 36 years old, divorced with three children. My prison I.D. number is 85404. I am an inmate at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. I lived with my grandmother and grandfather after the death of my mother, who was killed in an accident involving my alcoholic father. I never saw my father again. He died some 20 years later with liver cancer from drinking alcohol.

I graduated from Lafayette

High School in 1977. I was popular, well-liked, had a great future, goals in my life to reach — but this is where drugs, alcohol, and violence entered my life. Kind of strange, but it all started with smoking Kool filter cigarettes. I thought the name was cool and all my other friends were smoking them. This drug nicotine became boring, so I moved on up to marijuana. By the time I was a senior in high school, I was doing cocaine.

After graduation from high school, I moved to Phoenix, Ariz., and eventually owned my own business. At one time I had over half a million dollars in the bank. My drug habits became so expensive I lost it all, including my wife and children. I pray now every day to get my family back.

I was convicted in July 1993 for conspiracy to deliver marijuana. I was sentenced to two 20-year terms with five years suspended on each, to run concurrently, and fined \$15,000.

I lost all my friends, hurt my family, and lost my freedom — all from using destructive drugs.

Because of my personal knowledge of using drugs and its ultimate consequences, I have a great desire to communicate with young people in an effort to help them resist any temptations toward using drugs and alcohol.

I am starting a program I call the "U-Can" program. You can be who you choose to be. It is your choice. Turn to Jesus Christ instead of drugs.

James K. Harmon  
Parchman

## World has changed

### Editor:

June 17, 1963 was the day the United States decreed that the difference between right and wrong based on the absolutes of Judeo-Christian moral and ethical standards could no longer be taught in our country's public school system. This historic act unleashed an avalanche of carnage and devastation which are destroying American civilization. There appears to be no end to it, to wit:

Total violent crime up 500%  
Juvenile violent crime up 314%  
Child abuse up 400%  
Teen suicide up 313%  
Teen pregnancy up 200%  
Illegitimate births up 400%  
Abortion up 266%  
Divorce up 200%

Number of children living in single-parent households up 300%

Nor is this all when you consider alcoholism, drug abuse, indiscriminate sexual activity, homosexuality with its introduction of AIDS, and rampant dishonesty permeating all social and economic levels of American people. How could it have happened in only 30 years, approximately a generation and a half?

The answer is simply the default of America's Christian community which sat timidly by and let satanic forces prevail.

To rescue our nation, the Christian community must come forward boldly, organize, and use every constitutional means, including the ballot box, to return our school system to local and parental control. We must move promptly since public school students denied the teaching of God's law are now beginning to have children of their own.

Christians have the cause, the numbers, and the power to save our nation. They must get started now if our nation is to survive.

Jack L. Brown  
Columbus

## Prayer for convention

### Editor:

The congregation of First Church, Sharon, extends an invitation to all concerned Mississippi Baptists to join us on Nov. 10 for a Solemn Assembly prayer meeting (Joel 1:14; 2:15-17). We are compelled by God's Holy Spirit to enter into a season of prayer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, meeting Nov. 16-17 at First Church, Jackson.

Our purpose is to gather for prayer, confession, worship, and intercession for our convention and her leadership, and to ask God for an outpouring of his grace upon his people.

We will be asking God for a spirit-filled convention, a special anointing of God on all participants, a spirit of unity and harmony, a burning desire to know God's will about all issues, a renewed commitment to win souls for Christ, and a spiritual awakening in our churches.

Nelson Crozier, pastor  
First Church, Sharon  
Laurel

## Wolfe replies

### Editor:

I was greatly disappointed in the slant of your editorial that referred to me. I was portrayed to be a political power broker who had an agenda for the state of Mississippi. That is not true.

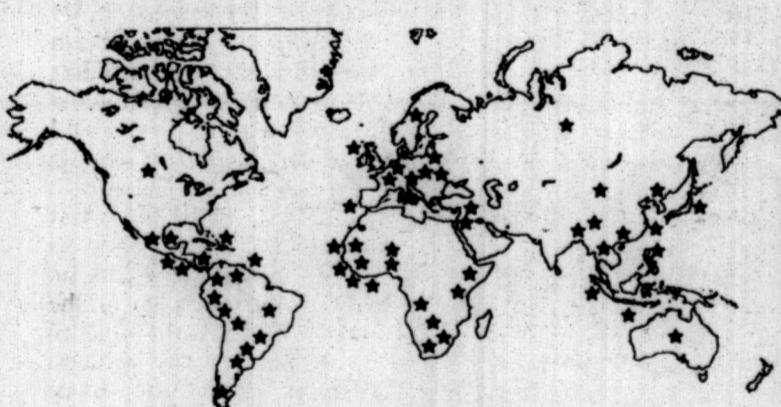
The truth is that I have only recommended pastors in Mississippi when asked to do so. I did not ask the pastor to recommend someone for president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. I told him some Mississippi pastors would like him to consider doing that. I was just relaying the message.

I have never had an agenda for Mississippi. I am not egotistical enough to think I can affect your state. I never got up one morning with the thought, "What can I do to make Mississippi more in the conservative camp?" I have a church to pastor, lost people to witness to, and a million other things. I deeply regret that my motives and intentions were portrayed otherwise.

Fred Wolfe, pastor  
Cottage Hill Church  
Mobile, Ala.

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## Revival Dates

**Temple, Big Point:** Oct. 31-Nov. 4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Joe Nesom, evangelist; Robby Myrick, music; Lance Hoggatt, pastor.

**Belle Fountain, Ocean Springs:** Oct. 31-Nov. 5; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James Messer, Theodore Ala., evangelist; Bonnie Cottingham, Agricola, music; David R. Grayson, pastor.

**38th Avenue, Hattiesburg:** Nov. 4-7; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Richard Jackson, Phoenix, Ariz., evangelist; Jim Watson, Germantown, Tenn.

## Homecomings

**Pecan Grove (Jones):** Oct. 31; dinner on the grounds following 11 a.m. worship service; Russell Cottingham, guest speaker.

**Barton, Lucedale:** Oct. 31; 60th anniversary; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; 1 p.m., singing and slide presentation of church history; Farrell Runyan, Travelers Rest, S. C., guest speaker; Gary L. Strehlow, pastor.

**Big Ridge (Gulf Coast):** Oct. 31; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish at noon followed by singing in the afternoon.

## Committee looks at Clarke proposals

The committee evaluating proposals concerning disposition of the former Clarke College properties in Newton met last week in Jackson to review proposals from interested parties, according to Larry Otis of Tupelo, chairman.

Otis said the committee hopes to have an economic evaluation of the properties by this week. "Then we will be in a position to seek firm proposals for presentation to the Nov. 9 meeting of the Executive Committee" of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said Otis.

The Executive Committee accepts or rejects any proposals made by the special committee and passes such along to the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting Nov. 16-17.

music; Concert series beginning Sunday, 7 p.m. with Michael English and Russ Lee, \$10/advance, \$12/door; Wiley Abel, pastor.

**Wildwood, Tupelo:** Oct. 31-Nov. 5; Sunday, 6 p.m.; weeknights, 7; Bert Harper, Tupelo, evangelist; Talmage Smith, Tupelo, music; Don Sparks, pastor.

**Maybank, Hattiesburg:** Oct. 31-Nov. 3; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; weeknights, 7; Robert Long, Louisville, Ky., evangelist; Jim Hulon, Seminary, music; George G. Aultman, pastor.

**Springdale, West:** Oct. 31-Nov. 5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ben Yarber, Columbus, evangelist; Jerome Keys, Columbus, music; Tim H. Weisheim, pastor.

**Tillatoba (Yalobusha):** Oct. 28-31; Thurs., Fri., and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner served at the church; James Garner, pastor, evangelist; Wanda Crawford and Dianne Jackson, music.

**First, Columbia:** Oct. 31-Nov. 3; Sunday, regular times; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Wayne Van-Horn, pastor, evangelist; Jay McKay Family, Texas, music.

**New Zion, Crystal Springs:** Nov. 5-7; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jason Robertson, Zachary, La., evangelist; Leroy Brewer Jr., pastor.

**Grandview, Pearl:** Oct. 31-Nov. 4; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Wilson Winstead, Florence, evangelist; Anthony Turner, Jackson, music; Wade Chappell, pastor.

**First, Canton:** Oct. 31-Nov. 3; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon with lunch and 7 p.m.; Richard Jackson, Phoenix, Ariz., evangelist; Sidney Buckley, music; Bill Hurt, pastor.

**Midway, Jackson:** Nov. 7-10; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lenier, evangelist; Bill Wilkinson, music; David Wilkinson, pastor.

**Big Ridge Church, D'Iberville, Gulf Coast Association:** has called Michael R. Priest as pastor. His first sermon as pastor will be Oct. 31, which is also homecoming day for the church. Priest is presently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at New Orleans Seminary. He

goes to Big Ridge after a four year pastorate at Ford's Creek Church, Poplarville.

**Ed Griffin,** pastor of First Church, Ridgeland, for 13 1/2 years has resigned and moved to Hammond, La., effective Sept. 26. He led First Church through a major building program including the addition of a new sanctuary.

**Timothy Crosby** is now pastor of Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain. He moved to Blue Mountain from Concord Church, Yazoo City.

## Just for the Record

Mississippi College will offer a series of reviews to aid students in preparing for the upcoming ACT testing. Sessions will be held Saturday mornings, Nov. 6-Dec. 4. Cost for each session is \$15. For more information, call MC's Division of Continuing Education at 925-3264.

**Neely Church, Neely,** will host the 5th Sunday Community Praise Service on Oct. 31, 1:30-3 p.m. Shine Down will be the featured group. For more information, call Charles L. Breland at 525-3737.

**High Attendance Sunday** will be held at Kreole Avenue Church, Moss Point, Oct. 31. The times are: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; and 2 p.m. early evening services.

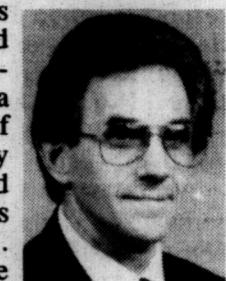
**Joey Tatum of Roseland Park Church, Picayune,** is serving as a Foreign Mission Board Journeyman. He is youth minister at First Church, Grand Cayman Island.

**First Church, Byram,** has called Tim Moak as music director effective Sept. 29. He is a graduate of Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Heuck's Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

**Richard "Ricky" White** has resigned the pastorate of Oak Haven Church, Pensacola, Fla. to enter full-time revival evangelism. He has

also pastored church in Mississippi. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

**White** can be reached at 6507 White Bellview Pines Place, Pensacola, FL 32526. His phone number is (904) 944-2341.



## Baptist college to crown black homecoming queen

**CLINTON (BP)** — Donetta McCullum will be crowned Oct. 30 as Mississippi College's first African-American homecoming queen.

McCullum, a 21-year-old biology pre-med senior, won a student vote at the Baptist-related college in a contest with 12 other candidates Oct. 13.

The Laurel native told the Jackson Clarion-Ledger she attributed her victory to votes

from both white and black friends and to becoming involved in more social activities.

McCullum is a staff member of the student newspaper, vice president of the Black Student Association Plus, and a member of the college's gospel choir.

African Americans at Mississippi College number 13% of this year's record enrollment of 3,781 students.

## R.G. Bilbo dies at age 80

R.G. Bilbo, 80, retired minister, died of cancer Oct. 20 at his home.

Services were held at 10 a.m. Oct. 22 at Old Hebron Church, with burial in Newhebron Cemetery. Saulters-Moore Funeral Home of Prentiss was in charge of arrangements.

Bilbo worked at Ingalls Shipyards from 1940-49, then became

a Baptist minister. He pastored churches in Philadelphia, Valley Park, Pelahatchie, and Old Hebron, where he retired.

Survivors include: his wife, Lydia; sons, Bo of Newhebron, and Bill of Lockport, La.; daughter, Frances Edwards of Baton Rouge, La.; and brothers Brutus and Kleamon, both of Picayune.



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## Staff Changes



Priest

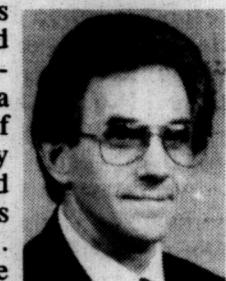
**Joey Tatum of Roseland Park Church, Picayune,** is serving as a Foreign Mission Board Journeyman. He is youth minister at First Church, Grand Cayman Island.

**First Church, Byram,** has called Tim Moak as music director effective Sept. 29. He is a graduate of Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Heuck's Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

**Richard "Ricky" White** has resigned the pastorate of Oak Haven Church, Pensacola, Fla. to enter full-time revival evangelism. He has

also pastored church in Mississippi. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

**White** can be reached at 6507 White Bellview Pines Place, Pensacola, FL 32526. His phone number is (904) 944-2341.



## God made no two snowflakes alike?

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January 1, 1994 **Winter Weekend** January 14-16, 1994 **Ski Fuge 2, 3, 4**  
March 7-11, 1994; March 14-18, 1994; March 21-25, 1994 ● For more information  
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# Baptist Record chooses new commentary writers

The Baptist Record has selected a pastor, a pastor's wife, and a college professor to serve as Sunday School lesson commentary writers for the first two quarters of 1994. Commentaries by the new writers will begin publication with the Dec. 30 issue of the Record.

Howard

Dan Howard will write lesson commentaries for the Bible Book series. Born in Bogalusa, La., Howard has been pastor of Woodville Church, Woodville, since 1986. He also was on the staff of Pine Grove, Picayune, for nine years — five as pastor and four as minister of youth/associate pastor; and two years at White Sand, Buckley Poplarville, as minister of music/youth.

Howard is a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and moderator of Mississippi Association. He holds undergraduate degrees from Pearl River Junior College and William Carey College, and master's and doctor's degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Marsha have a son, Daniel Robert.

On May 17, 1991, a brilliant bolt of lightning struck the 90-member Valley Baptist Church in Middletown, Pennsylvania, causing a fire that destroyed the building.

*"Church Mutual worked speedily to help us settle the claim and get on the road to rebuilding. They are an exceptional company, and I would endorse them 100%."*

—Robert M. Colvin Jr., Pastor

Billie Buckley will write commentaries for the Life and Work series. A weekly columnist for the **Hattiesburg American**, Buckley has been an elementary school teacher for 30 years. She currently teaches sixth grade English through a writing workshop-based program. She is also the author of **Put Some Good on My Life**.

Buckley is a member of Petal Harvey Church, Petal, where her husband Gerald is pastor. She has served as a teacher in various church programs. The Buckleys have two sons and twin grandsons.

Doug Bain Jr. will write commentaries for the Convention Uniform series. Bain has been on the faculty of Blue Mountain College since 1975, teaching both psychology and biblical studies courses. He also has been a pastor and served on the staffs of churches in Texas, Montana, Panama, and Mississippi.

Bain has written for **The Christian Single**, **The Baptist Record**, and **Merger Dictionary of the Bible**. He also has been a member and president of the Board of Ministerial Education. He holds degrees from Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary, and has studied at Vanderbilt University, Nashville. He has two sons.



Bain



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Bain

Thursday, October 28, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## Names in the News



Toombs Church, Lauderdale Association, recently honored Kathryn Dell Coker (right), pianist, and Jeanie Roberson (left), organist, for their many years of service. Coker has served for 33 years and Roberson for 28 years. A reception was held in their honor and they were each given commemorative plaques and a monetary gift. Paul N. Bird (center) is minister of music and Bob Simmons is interim pastor.



East Heights Church, Tupelo, presented a plaque to Reginal Moore for his 20 years of service as church treasurer. Pictured, from left, are Genie Moore, Reginal Moore, and Steve F. Bain, pastor.



W.L. Mullins, son of Eunice Mullins and the late Lee Mullins of Wesson, and Paul Bowlin, son of Cecil Bowlin and the late Virginia Bowlin of Hazlehurst were ordained as deacons of Stronghope Church, Copiah Association, on Sunday, Sept. 26. Speakers were Lowell Ingram and W.E. Alexander.



Greg Adcock and Bill White were ordained as deacons at Calvary Church, Durant. Pictured, from left, are Adcock, White, and Jerry W. Smith, pastor.

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In a single flash, 90 people lost their house.



## Summer ministry in Ukraine

Mississippians who ministered in Ukraine this summer were, left to right: Ronnie Cottingham of Lucedale, music evangelist; Rodney Anderson, pastor of Hickory Church; Alane Knight; and Jimmy Knight of Laurel, evangelist. With them is Ivan Medvedev (right), pastor of First Baptist Church, Donetsk, the largest Baptist church in that city. Through the work of Medvedev, the Mississippi team was able to meet government officials, police, leaders of the physics institute, and local hospital staff members and patients. The team was also able to share the gospel at each meeting, as well as distribute more than 20,000 Bibles and conduct street preaching services.

## Leaders plan blitz on health reform, abortion

NASHVILLE (ABP) — Southern Baptists leaders say they're preparing to launch an unprecedented public-relations assault to keep abortion out of President Clinton's health-care reform plan.

Giving Americans greater access to abortion under the health-care package would be the greatest blow to the pro-life movement since *Roe vs. Wade* legalized abortion on demand in 1973, said Richard Land, director of the Christian Life Commission.

"We in the pro-life movement will exert a massive grass-roots effort to prevent this from happening," Land said. Land and other Southern Baptist Convention public-policy advocates met Oct. 13 in Washington, D.C., to air their doubts about the sweeping changes promised by Clinton in his national health-care proposals.

"There can be little doubt that, in spite of the President's professed desire that abortion be 'safe and legal, but rare,' the killing of unborn children will vastly multiply as a result of his national health-care plan," Land said.

"It is unfortunate that the President is apparently so committed to the pro-abortion lobby that he seems willing to jeopardize the most significant social policy legislation of this century for a medical procedure which most Americans agree is elective, except in the rarest of circumstances."

Abortion-rights advocates say fairness demands that abortion be included in health care because poor women otherwise could not afford it.

The Christian Life Commission is planning an assembly of medical, legal, and religious experts in January in Washington to analyze the impact of Clinton's Health Security Plan.

Land and his staff concentrated most of their concern Oct. 13 on the abortion part of the Clinton

plan. They stopped short of saying they want to torpedo the entire Clinton package, but they did express doubts that the quality of such a massive health-care plan would improve the lives of most Americans.

## SBC urged to boycott Disney for Touchstone's "NYPD Blue" ads

ATLANTA (BP) — A Texas layman said Southern Baptists should boycott Walt Disney World during next year's annual meeting in Orlando unless a subsidiary of the theme park's parent company stops advertising on ABC's controversial show "NYPD Blue."

"I love Goofy, but they shouldn't put him in charge of their advertising," said Walter Carpenter, a Houston attorney and member of Second Church of Houston. The challenge comes, however, at the same time that Southern Baptist Convention leaders are working to offer incentives to messengers planning to visit the theme park during their trip.

Carpenter said the Walt Disney Company showed "blatant

## Lessons in love and healing —

# Hosea, topic of '94 Winter Bible Study

By M. Pierce Matheney Jr.

Hosea is the Winter Bible Study book for 1994.

Hosea is a book about God's "wounded" love.

Hosea married Gomer to act out God's judgment word against Israel.

Hosea was commanded to have children by her and to give them symbolic names.

Hosea was ordered by God to marry a "woman of harlotries," that is, an immoral woman.

Hosea's marriage is the most difficult problem of interpretation in the book.

Hosea's wife may or may not have yet become immoral at the time of the marriage. (I believe that she had.)

Hosea may or may not have known Gomer was immoral at the time of the marriage. (I believe that he knew.)

Hosea is commanded to experience in his relationship to Gomer what God had experienced in his relationship to Israel.

Hosea's wife betrays their covenant of marriage, and becomes an adulteress.

Hosea is commanded to act out God's redemptive love for Israel by redeeming his erring bride.

Hosea preaches the judgment message of Israel's unfaithfulness to her Husband out of this bitter experience.

Hosea also preaches hope for the future redemption of Israel, just as he has bought back and dis-

ciplined his adulterous wife.

Hosea says God will lure Israel into the desert for a "second honeymoon."

Hosea proclaims a new betrothal of Israel to Yahweh with all the covenant virtues as bridal gifts.

Hosea announces a new universal covenant of peace and fertility built on the grace of God.

Hosea said this could only happen for Israel after the discipline of judgment in exile.

Hosea preached the covenant controversy of the Lord against his disobedient people.

Hosea focused on the religious leaders for having led the people astray.

Hosea condemned the apostasy of Israel to the Baal religion, with its drunkenness and immorality.

Hosea refused to accuse the women of their misconduct while excusing the men for theirs.

Hosea revealed that the Lord rejected Israel's worship as superficial.

Hosea preached the need for a real repentance going beyond such superficiality.

Hosea rejected Israel's kings as not chosen by God.

Hosea condemned their worship of the golden calf of Bethel, and predicted its destruction.

Hosea derided their trust in foreign alliances as basic betrayals of their loyalty to God.

Hosea was accounted as a fool and a madman by Israel for such preaching.

Hosea thought of himself as God's watchman to warn Israel of her sin and its punishment.

Hosea saw God as a loving Father, having to punish his rebellious son, but unwilling to finally destroy him.

Hosea saw Israel as a "Jacob," unwilling to learn the consequences of his tricky behavior.

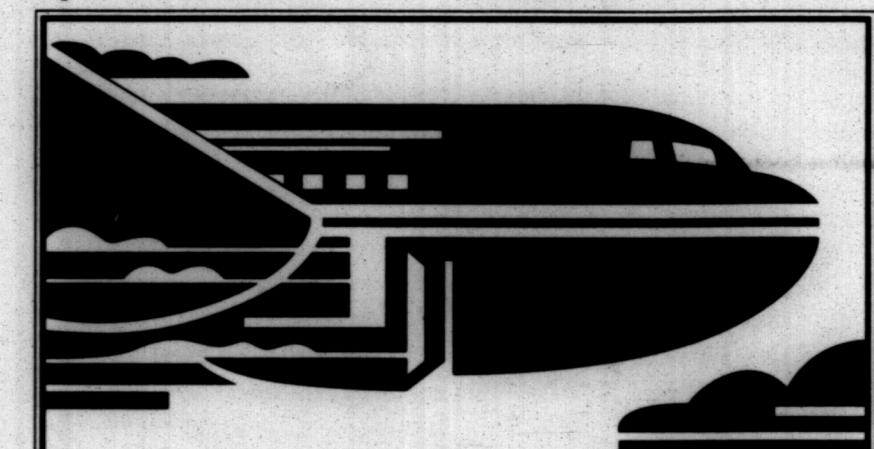
Hosea said Ephraim as a nation was as good as dead and buried.

Hosea yet preached hope for a real repentance and healing through the forgiving love of God.

Hosea held out the hope for a restored Israel dwelling beneath God's shadow in a renewed "garden" of divine fruitfulness and beauty.

Hosea is a fascinating book about a prophet who experienced and proclaimed the surpassing wonders of God's love.

Matheney is professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; and author of the Seminary Extension Department Study Guide for Hosea: God's Wounded Love.



## On a Prayer and a Wing

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# Uniform Family troubles



By Michael O'Brien  
Genesis 25

Our text is a story of brewing family problems. We see the hand of God all the way through the story, but our hearts are touched by some of the events.

**God's answer to Isaac (vv. 19-21).** Abraham's son Isaac marries at the age of 40 and for 20 years he and Rebekah are childless. We see Isaac acting as an intercessor on behalf of his wife and praying that God will open her womb. God hears his prayer and he blesses them with twins.

**God's revelation to Rebekah (vv. 22-23).** "What's going on, Lord?" is Rebekah's question to God. Imagine: for 20 years she has remained childless and now she feels this jostling going on within her (v. 22). She seeks the Lord for answers and God is right there to supply the answer. God shares with her that her two sons would both head a nation, but there is a catch. The elder son would serve the younger. This lesson should teach us that God has a unique plan for all of us. Our lives are best lived out when we are in the will of God.

**God's fulfillment of his promise (vv. 24-26).** Just as God had promised, Rebekah had twins. When they are first born, the younger grasps the heel of the elder. The first born is named Esau. The name Esau means "hairy." The apparent hair on his body prompted his name. Later he will also be called Edom, which means red. Although it is not indicated in the text, Jacob must have been a fair child, but was hanging onto the heel of his brother. Some teach that the reason he was holding the heel of his brother was because he was supposed to be the first born. However, God had already determined that the older would serve the younger and therefore it would have hindered God's plan had it been any other way.

**God's plan takes shape (vv. 27-28).** "The boys grew up..." (v. 27). What kind of environment did these twin boys grow up in? Jacob was an outdoorsman. Isaac was an outdoorsman as well, and his elder son pleased him in that respect. On the other hand, Jacob stayed at home ("around the tents," v. 27). He was a "mama's boy." The sadness enters the picture when we read how one of these boys was loved by his father, while the other was loved by his mother. Why did it have to be an either/or situation? Why not love your son who hunts and your son who does not just the same? God's Word teaches that our heavenly Father loves us all the same. "For God so loved the world..." (emphasis mine). We see God's plan beginning to take shape in these verses, but in the following verse we see how it is carried out.

**God's plan is fulfilled (vv. 29-34).** Here we find Jacob taking advantage of his older brother by trading a meal for the older brother's birthright. His name, Jacob, means "trickster." Esau can be seen as the hero, the hunter, the brave and caring provider. Jacob can be seen as the weak and unattractive, spoiled brat, loved by his mother. But the real truth lies within. Jacob was a man of faith. He believed the promises which had been made to Abraham and Isaac. Esau saw the promises as vague and unreal. He lived for the enjoyment of the hour. God may have had another plan to get Jacob into the place he had for him, but God is still in control. Had their parents been less prone to show favoritism, God could have used them to accomplish what he had in mind. What we need to learn from this lesson is that it is always best to treat every person fairly. Let's commit ourselves to show an impartial love in our family relationships and among God's people.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

# Bible Book

## Moses' intercession for Israel



By Jewel P. Merritt  
Deuteronomy 9

We can learn so much by observing the prayer life of a man like Moses. In Deuteronomy 4:7 he asked, "What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?" (NIV). He is still near when we come to him in humble prayer.

**God's reasons for driving out the Canaanites (vv. 4-6).** Moses reminded the Israelites in the opening verses of Chapter 9 that the obstacles which had caused their fathers to fear still remained. The walls around the cities were just as high. The strong, tall Anakites continued to inhabit the land. But God would go ahead of them and fight for Israel.

**Victory could bring temptation.** After the people were settled in this good land, they may begin to think that they deserved such rewards from God. Why might they think that? They may decide their righteousness had put God in their debt. It was not the righteousness of the Israelites nor was it their integrity that prompted God to act in their behalf. Rather it was the wickedness of the Canaanites which caused God to drive them out. The covenant made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was also a reason for the Lord's intervention in behalf of Israel. But the people remained stiff-necked or rebellious.

**God's anger at Israel's idolatry (vv. 12-14a).** To prove his point about the attitude of the people, Moses reminded them of the action of their fathers at Sinai. Moses had been on the mountain with the Lord for 40 days and nights. God had given Moses the tablets of the covenant. Meanwhile, the people grew weary of waiting. Persuading Aaron to help, they brought their jewelry to him. Aaron melted it and made an idol shaped like a calf. The people proclaimed this idol to be the god that had delivered them from Egypt. (Ex. 32:1-4) This great sin brought God's immediate anger and punishment. Indeed, he planned to completely destroy the entire nation and raise up from Moses a stronger people.

**Moses' intercession for Israel's rebellion (vv. 25-28).** We are to be in a spirit of prayer at all times. God honors quick, silent prayers for wisdom, patience, a loving spirit, etc. He hears our prayers as we drive to work, wash dishes, or visit the sick. But real intercessory prayer is hard work! It takes time and energy. It takes a heart of love. Moses showed all these qualities as he had prayed for the Israelites some 40 years before this sermon.

In verse 12 God had referred to the Israelites as Moses' people: "... Your people whom you brought out of Egypt have become corrupt." When Moses prayed for the people, he reminded the Lord whose people they really were. "O Sovereign Lord, do not destroy your people, your own inheritance that you redeemed by your great power and brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand" (v. 26). They were God's people. Only the Sovereign Lord could have performed such miracles. The people had committed a great sin. Moses interceded for them, and God forgave them.

Years later the Israelites confessed their sins to Samuel and asked that he intercede for them. Samuel replied, "As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you" (1 Sam. 12:23a, NIV). Did you catch the significance of that? When we fail to pray for each other, we sin against the Lord!

On the cross Jesus prayed an intercessory prayer. "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34, NIV). His intercessory work continues. "He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them" (Heb. 7:25, NIV). We have a great responsibility and joy to pray for each other.

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

# Life and Work

## How to please God



By Mark A. Rathel  
Isaiah 58

Visual images are powerful. Reflect on these: Massive international hunger relief efforts in Somalia, Serbia, and Croatia make the evening news each night; on a busy intersection an unkempt man holds up a sign with the words, "Will work for food;" during a rainstorm, a homeless woman pulls her cardboard shelter tightly around her cold body; church members leaving a worship service encounter a person in the parking lot going from person to person seeking assistance.

Visual images are powerful. Through the constant bombardment of visual images concerning people in need, however, we may become desensitized to the plight of real people. Skepticism and criticism replace Christian compassion. We become reluctant to take action or to give to relief agencies.

Perhaps we need to ask God to help us to not become desensitized. Isaiah reminded believers that God is more pleased with service to hurting humanity than religious rituals.

**Declare to my people their transgressions (vv. 1-4).** Isaiah addressed the message recorded in this chapter to Jewish exiles in Babylon. Because of the exile, the Jews abandoned traditional agricultural professions and became merchants and financiers. They were financially secure, but spiritually unstable.

The exiles transgressed against God in their worship. They religiously sought after God day after day (v. 2). They denied their bodies food in order to be noticed by God (v. 3). They thought God would reward them for their extreme self-denial. Fasting accomplished nothing other than making the exiles irritable (v. 4). God was not impressed.

God is not impressed with us, either. The key to worship is motive. If we attend church services faithfully, tithe meticulously, and pray daily with the goal of making God notice us, our worship is in vain. God wants people to worship because of love, not for what they will receive from God.

**Divide your bread with the hungry (vv. 6-7).** God is not pleased with self-denial undertaken to impress him. He is pleased with self-denial undertaken to help a person in need. Isaiah presents a pageant of people passing by in extreme need: the prisoners, the oppressed, the slaves, the hungry, the homeless, and the unclothed. This pageant of down and out people represent opportunities to help.

Isaiah proclaimed two principles of Christian ministry in these verses. First, ministry must deal with the causes of hunger and homelessness; believers are to break every yoke of oppression (v. 6). Second, believers must be personally involved in ministry (v. 7). In addition to giving bread, we are to give ourselves (v. 10).

What is your church doing about hunger? What is your personal involvement in ministry to needy people? Some Baptist churches receive a benevolent offering when they observe the Lord's Supper. You may want to lead your church to give regularly to Southern Baptists hunger relief. You might give some of your garden produce to an unemployed family. An association could sponsor a food distribution center. The opportunities to help are endless.

**Your light will break out (vv. 8-11).** God does not bless us for our religious rituals. He blesses us when we respond to people in need. We err when we expect God to hear our cries when we are deaf to the cries of hurting people.

The promises contained in these verses are conditional, as indicated by the use of the word "then" (vv. 8 and 10). To receive these promises we must assist the needy, stop pointing a finger in blame, and stop speaking evil concerning people. The promises are exceedingly rich. God promises light, healing, protection and guidance, answered prayer, and strength. The climactic promise is one of an abundant life symbolized by the well-watered garden.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.



Chaplains and chaplain assistants of the Mississippi Army National Guard recently attended a Unit Ministry Team Conference. Among them were seven Mississippi Baptist pastors who serve as chaplains in the state's Army National Guard.

## State chaplains focus on serving units, ministering during recent conference

The chaplains and chaplain assistants of the Mississippi Army National Guard recently participated in three days of training at the Unit Ministry Team (UMT) Conference held Sept. 20-22 at the Mississippi Military Department.

The conference introduced the UMTs to key personnel on both the state and national levels of the National Guard. This included visits from Maj. Gen. James H. Garner, the Adj. Gen. of the state of Mississippi and chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Brock Watson, assigned as Deputy Chief of Chaplains from the United States Army National Guard. As well, the chaplains and chaplain assistants were told of the heightened involvement of the Mississippi Army National Guard.

## English-language churches increase despite cutbacks

By Mike Creswell

WIESBADEN, Germany (BP) — Three more English-speaking Baptist churches in Europe have closed as U.S. military force cutbacks continue to drain congregations affiliated with the European Baptist Convention.

But a strong church-starting campaign reaching English-speaking internationals is reducing the impact of the withdrawal, EBC leaders say. So many Europeans either speak or want to learn English that English-speaking churches can play a key role in evangelizing Europe, they predict.

Thirteen English-speaking Baptist congregations have closed since the fall of the Berlin Wall signaled the end of the Cold War. But 17 new churches have started during the same period as the European convention shifts its ministry focus to include all English-speaking internationals, not just Americans living in Europe. Some of those new churches are in Eastern Europe.

About half the convention's approximately 60 congregations already call themselves "international" and focus their ministry on

in domestic affairs. This included briefings on drug demand reduction and counter drug operations conducted by the Mississippi Guard.

There are seven Mississippi Baptist pastors serving as chaplains in the Mississippi Army National Guard. They are: Col. James W. Street, Calvary Church, Jackson; Maj. Truman Thompson, Ingomar Church, New Albany; Maj. Jackie Cooke, Shiloh Church, Sontag; Maj. Grover C. Glenn III, New Palestine Church, Picayune; Capt. Gregory Winningham, Campbell's Creek Church, D'Lo; Capt. Bobby Cook Jr., Shiloh Church, Big Creek; and 2nd Lt. Gary Killen, East Morton Church, Morton.

English speakers from anywhere in the world. A mid-1993 survey showed that people from 94 nations attend EBC churches on a routine Sunday.

Interest in the English language across Europe, especially Eastern Europe, provides a standing invitation in many places to start an English-language church, said Southern Baptist missionary Ray Reynolds. He and his wife, Helen, serve as EBC church-planting consultants. They have conducted surveys in major European cities and pinpointed dozens of strategic places to plant churches. Earlier Reynolds was pastor of an EBC congregation in Belgium.

Other EBC churches have lost so many members that they have been left much weaker, said John Merritt, Southern Baptist missionary and EBC general secretary. Some churches, once self-supporting, now plead for financial help. Weakened churches in Augsburg and Berlin, Germany, also have asked the Foreign Mission Board for missionaries or volunteers to serve as pastors.

Creswell writes for FMB.

## Behind U.N. blockade —

# Missionaries' goal in Haiti now under siege: help poor survive

By Erich Bridges

preparation for working with the Rutledges.

The five have no immediate intention to leave Haiti, despite warnings from some foreign embassies to their citizens to depart as fears of violence rise.

"We tend to follow the U.S. Embassy's lead," Mrs. Rutledge said. "They have several stages for going on alert or pulling out. But the embassy to this point has not issued any such warnings. We're trying to be prepared in case, but at the moment things don't seem to be to that level yet."

As the missionaries watch the situation, the Brenthams postponed a scheduled evangelistic revival until November.

Meanwhile, U.S. ships circle Haiti in a virtual economic blockade to force the regime to comply with a U.N. plan to return ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the island nation. And Haitians head for the countryside — not necessarily fearing invasion or more violence, but anticipating the impact of the renewed embargo, according to the Rutledges.

First, fuel will dry up, making it much harder to travel out of the capital later on. Next, food will begin to disappear in urban areas.

Once the Rutledges get back home to the countryside, hungry Haitians will need their agricultural ministry more than ever. It's designed to help farmers improve their yield using readily available materials and then teach the concepts to other farmers.

"Our goal is to help people learn to raise their traditional crops with slightly modified techniques that increase their production and improve the quality of the land," said Mrs. Rutledge. "It's not uncommon for farmers who have worked with us to double their crop yield off the same land and improve it steadily after that."

"We use traditional tools. We try to bring in no foreign imports. As a result, this embargo won't change how our farmers farm. We'll continue to work regardless of embargoes from now until eternity.... The whole idea is farmers teaching farmers. That's the most effective way to make progress."

"This has been Haiti's history for a long, long time. What will change Haiti is Christ. Our prayer for Haitian people is they would come to know him. That'll be the solution for the Haitian people more than anything else."

Bridges writes for FMB.

## Baptist Men honor Oklahoma layman Vanderford with Owen Cooper Award

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions honored Tulsa, Okla., layman John Vanderford with the Owen Cooper Award, the highest honor bestowed by Southern Baptists for volunteer missions.

During the closing session of NFBM's Triennial Meeting, NFBM President Fred Roach of Dallas cited Vanderford's long-standing commitment to volunteer construction. A retired contractor, Vanderford and his wife, Myra, have led church-building teams in projects around the world and participated in disaster relief projects.

Vanderford is president of the Baptist Builders Fellowship of Oklahoma and a deacon at Memorial Church in Tulsa. He works closely with Brotherhood Commission trustee Joe Herndon of

Duncan, Okla., who coordinates Oklahoma's out-of-state and overseas volunteer construction projects. In 1978, he planned and led in the construction of the first Oklahoma Brotherhood disaster relief mobile unit.

"John Vanderford's lifestyle commitment to volunteer missions is a model of the lay movement that has been sweeping our denomination," said Brotherhood Commission President James D. Williams. "His commitment to God that he made more than 15 years ago, to just be available for missions, is one that every Southern Baptist needs to consider."

NFBM is a ministry of the Brotherhood Commission's adult division. Formalized in 1986, NFBM consists of 14 affinity fellowships that recruit volunteers for

## Bibliocipher

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TNH APZH CB WNAPCWR XNEHZY, APKA  
BPKOO WNA JZ HZEZKOZY; WZCAPZH PCY,  
APKA BPKOO WNA JZ GWNIW.

OMGZ AIZOEZ:AIN.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Five: Forty-Six.

Baptist Record

291 10-28  
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